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W. PARK EVANS, - Publisher and Proprietor.

Gleichen, Alberta, July 22, 1905.

More Opinions on Agricultural College Location

During the Provincial fair few topics had more attention than the
question of the location of the Agricultural College. It was refreshing to
see such a general interest taken in this very important matter, or was
the interest confined to fillers of the soil, but was discussed by business
men who appreciate the fact that Alberta can only prosper in proportion
to the success of her agriculture.

This question was dealt with at the directors' meeting of the United
Farmers of Alberta, and two resolutions were passed, one, requesting the
location to place the agricultural college at some more suitable point than
Strathcona, and not under university management. The second that
some of the leading agriculturists of Alberta, be allowed to act with the
authorities in deciding where this should be.

It is to settle matters of such magnitude as this, that we need direct
legislation, which is gaining such headway in Australia, New Zealand
and many of the States, and it is just as well to provide for it
municipally; we all know how satisfactorily this has worked in Cal-
gary, and in any opinion our legislators could show their honest desire to
do the best possible for the province by submitting this question to the
people.

All that is necessary is to transfer the option of ordering a sub-
mission from themselves to the people and to make the people's decision
final.

I understand that the main reason given for locating the Agricultural
College of Strathcona under university management, is one of economy;
but this seems to be far fetched and against common business sense; we
should predict certain failure for any man who engaged a unit to
manage a blacksmith's business, and although the president of the uni-
versity is, according to Dr. Kennedy's statement, able to run the uni-
versity and the senate (and many people think the cabinet as well) this
does not prove his ability to turn out the kind of man we need to
develop this great country.

There is no real economy in any thing but the very best for training
our future agriculturists. We want the best, most educational, practical,
efficient and business like faculty of instruction as well as the most suit-
able location from every standpoint that can possibly be obtained regard-
less of claims, political favors or any other influences.

The question has been asked by those in favor of Strathcona as a
location for the Agricultural College, "Why should not a farmer have as
good education as a doctor, lawyer or member of any other profession?"
No answer can be given, but the education of a farmer is, in itself, real
education; the modern agriculturist is a scientist, and the best mental
equipment is none too good for his profession. He is successful if he must
be a practical business man, and no one with an unbiased mind would
say that the best education for training farmers can be obtained at Strath-
cona.

The Scottish agricultural commission to Canada were so greatly im-
pressed with the enormous advantages under which education and re-
search were conducted in the Dominion, that after visiting the Ontario
college at Guelph, and the Macdonald college at St. Anne, Bellevue, they
said "They could not but envy and grieve at the good of their neighbors,"
and as a result of their visit to Canada, at their recommendation the
West of Scotland college of agriculture has taken Kilmaronok farm as an
experimental area. Mr. James Johnson, co-owner of the farm and dairy
communities, said: "The favorable testimony was, that the work of an
agricultural college could not be efficiently carried on without a dairy."
It has been argued that being a young province, where all the different
arts and sciences start together, there should be no difficulty in one tak-
ing precedence over the other. Why Alberta should expect to succeed
where every other attempt to conduct an agricultural college under uni-
versity management has failed, is difficult to see.

Why should we allow a few interested individuals to juggle with our
greatest industry?

Those directly interested in agriculture comprise over 75 per cent of
our population, and it is our own fault if we do not have the college lo-
cated in the right place under suitable management. W. J. THRELLS.

Mr. Horace Jaxon, the Saskatchewan lecturer, is quoted as follows by
the Calgary Daily News:

"Although there seems to be impression in certain quarters that the
northern end of your province is enjoying the larger slice of political
favor at this time, it is not at all unlikely that this active public spirit
displayed by so many of your surrounding agriculturists will result in
your securing the location of the proposed agricultural college in your
end of the province and away from the somewhat questionable influence of
the aris department of your provincial university. In this possibility you
are probably to be congratulated; for apart from the more obvious desir-
ability of having the agricultural college located in the midst of the dis-
trict that presents the greatest variety of agricultural conditions and prob-
lems, and therefore the wide range of educational opportunity for the
young men who may prove wise enough to attend, it is evident that the
points of view, respectively entertained by representatives of Belles Let-
tres on one hand and those of the distinctly practical sort of agricultur-
ists on the other, are so widely apart that it would seem exceedingly difficult
for them to find a common ground that would not prove to be an insipid
and stultifying compromise with the alternative that the agricultural inter-
est would be hopelessly overshadowed by the traditionally predominating
literary one."

"For while the mental training and discipline resulting from the
so-called classical studies is of undeniable advantage to those who are des-
tined to enter the more purely intellectual walks of life, it must also be
admitted that the pursuit of those more abstract and less immediately
profitable studies is apt to result in the securing of a governing majority,
both of the student body and of the professional staff, from the ranks of
that specially privileged class of whom it has been justly observed that
they cultivate and give highest honor to their unrecuperative accom-
plishments, of remote social value, whose possession by those who have
acquired them constitutes convincing and ostentatious proof that such
possessors are hopelessly unfranchised from the necessity of having to
work for a living."

"In this western country our young farmers are under special neces-
sity of being delivered from any slightest contamination by such anti-
social and undemocratic ideas and prejudices; and it is those cause of
contamination that the agricultural college will probably 'live a life',
part, and in its own special environment."

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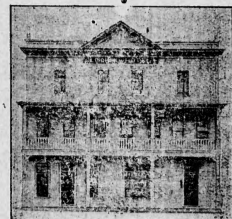
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